

driven and slaughtered by their own government in 1863. They are not a federally recognized tribe and are scattered throughout Northern Utah and Southern Idaho. The following article depicts their sorrows and triumphs over the last 140 years. It details how recently they were able to acquire the land where the 1863 massacre occurred. This site will serve as a reminder for time immemorial of the sacrifice and hardship endured by this people since those fateful days of 1863. I respectfully submit it to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on behalf of the Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation and the American West Heritage Center, the sole repository of their artifacts and history.

[From the Salt Lake Tribune, Mar. 25, 2003]

SHOSHONES FINALLY GET MASSACRE LAND

(By Kristen Moulten)

PRESTON, IDAHO.—The Northwestern Shoshones have been invisible among Utah's Indian tribes, almost an afterthought on any list.

But that era is over, according to Forrest Cuch, Utah's head of American Indian affairs and one of a dozen speakers at a ceremony Monday celebrating a new chapter for the tribe.

The Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation at last took ownership of land in southern Idaho along the Bear River where hundreds of their ancestors were slaughtered by U.S. soldiers in 1863.

"All my life I've watched the Shoshone suffer in this area," Cuch told the 75 Shoshones and 125 of their friends gathered at the massacre site Monday two miles west of Preston. "It's your turn to be first now. You've been last for so long."

Tribal Chairwoman Gwen Davis of Brigham City agreed. "We've waited many years for this day to happen," she said. "Our dreams have become reality today."

The tribe plans a small interpretive center to tell the story of the massacre.

A larger interpretive center is planned farther south near Logan. The American West Heritage Center at Wellsville is raising \$30 million for a center that will have a multimedia re-creation of the massacre and tell the tribe's story in full. The tribe's library and cultural artifacts also will be kept at the heritage center, said Bruce Parry, executive director of the tribe.

Back on Jan. 29, 1863, the Shoshones were in their winter camp at the northern end of Cache Valley in Idaho when soldiers under the command of Col. Patrick Connor attacked.

The first hour was a battle between the soldiers and Shoshone braves, but it soon turned into a massacre. Men, women and children were shot and clubbed to death; teepees and food supplies were torched. Between 250 and 380 Shoshones were killed, while a few dozen hid in brush and under the riverbanks.

Mormon pioneers had asked the soldiers to intercede because Shoshones—who had lost their game and other food sources to pioneer and wagon train encroachment—had become an irritant, depending on the pioneers for food. Shoshone braves also were suspected of raiding supply wagons en route to Montana gold-mining camps.

In a benedictory prayer at the end of Monday's ceremony, Elder Monte Brough of the LDS Church's First Quorum of the Seventy alluded to the role played by early Mormons in inciting the massacre.

"There is a history of persecution and discrimination here, and we ask that this can be a token gesture to remedy that . . . a token of those things that are solidly in the past."

Brough prayed that all who visit the site will consider it sacred ground.

Paul Campbell, chairman of the Franklin (Idaho) County Commission, said he learned just recently that his great-great grandfather had watched the massacre from a bluff above the river.

Many Preston area residents are ignorant of the massacre, he said. Early historic markers labeled the Shoshone women and children "combatants."

The 26 acres turned over to the tribe Monday have been grazed for decades and have a crumbling homestead in one corner.

Campbell said the shift to tribal ownership should get the Idaho congressional delegation's attention and help win the place designation as a national historic site.

The land was purchased this past weekend by the Trust for Public Land, a national land-conservation organization. The \$55,000 purchase price for two parcels comprising the 26 acres was raised from the Flamekeeper Foundation (formerly the William F. and Anna Smith Foundation) of Salt Lake City; Katherine and Zeke Dumke Jr.; historian Brigham Madsen and several anonymous donors. The American West Heritage Center helped with fund raising.

"This is a story that must be heard, not just locally, but regionally and nationally," said Alina Bokde, a New Mexico-based project manager for the trust. The organization has a program to help tribes regain ancestral lands.

Allie Hansen of Preston was jubilant Monday. The history buff has shown the massacre site and told the story to thousands of visitors for two decades and successfully lobbied the National Park Service to get it listed on the National Historic Register in 1990.

When one gets immersed in a historical subject, it starts to seem like a fairy tale, she said. "This makes reality out of it."

WEST VIRGINIA SERVICEMEN MISSING IN ACTION

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself, the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, and the 19 servicemen from West Virginia who are still missing as a result of their military service in the Vietnam War. Following Operation Iraqi Freedom, support for our missing soldiers and their families has been in the hearts of all Americans. The successful rescue of Army PFC. Jessica Lynch reminded America of the amazing strength and courage exhibited by American prisoners of war. In a salute to our missing soldiers, I would like to personally acknowledge the League's efforts and recognize these missing West Virginians, so that their strength, courage and patriotic service may be lastingly praised remembered and cherished:

John Scott Albright II of Huntington, Albert Harold Altizer of Squire, Joseph Clair Austin of Moundsville, Jerry Edward Auxier of Dixie, Keith Royal Wilson Curry of Salem, James Edward Duncan of Point Pleasant, Robert W. Hunt of Beckley, Carroll B. Lilly of Morgantown, Danny G. Marshall of Waverly, Michael Robert Norton of Eskdale, Edward Milton Parsley of Naugatuck, Marshall I. Pauley of Milton, Ronald Keith Pennington of Hambleton, Joe Harold Pringle of Homer,

James Ray Sargent of Anawalt, Hughie Franklin Snider of New Cumberland, Dean Calvin Spencer III of Morgantown, James Lawrence Taylor of Nitro, and David Wallace Wickham II of Wheeling.

Many of us will never experience the pain of uncertainty that the families of POWs live with. Adding insult to injury, these missing soldiers have slowly slipped from our nation's collective memory. It is our sober duty to never forget our unaccounted-for soldiers, and to show our appreciation for their service by flying the POW/MIA flag.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and honor that West Virginia remembers the service of these men. We will continue to fly the POW/MIA flag, and we laud The National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia for their continued diligence in locating our missing sons and daughters and for their unwavering commitment to the memory of our nation's POWs.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2003

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support H.R. 2357, the Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care Act of 2003 and I would like to thank Congressman EVANS, Ranking Member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee for introducing this important measure.

As we speak, our young men and women in uniform are selflessly risking their lives in Iraq and in Afghanistan. The bravery that they show reflects the proud tradition of this nation's military and demonstrates the great sacrifices made by our veterans and their families. America owes a great debt to its veterans.

Recently, the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Veterans released its final report, which noted "a significant mismatch in VA between demand and available funding." To ensure funding for veterans' health care, the report recommends "modifications to the current budget and appropriations process by using a mandatory funding mechanism."

The "Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care Act of 2003" would address the findings and recommendations of the Task Force by creating a guaranteed funding stream for veterans' health care. We need a process that ensures that our veterans do not have to wait for discretionary funding each fiscal year, and that is why I support H.R. 2357.

The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars have built a coalition to fight for the passage of mandatory funding for veterans' health care. It is one of the highest priorities for the veterans of this country and it should be one of the highest priorities for this Congress.

We need to work to ensure that both bodies pass legislation to guarantee funding for veterans' health care. The veterans of this country need to know that this Congress is serious about caring for their needs, and that this country keeps its promises.